

**Chair**  
Natalie Elkins, Citizen Rep.

**Vice-Chair**  
Chuck Nelson, Citizen Rep.

**Secretary**  
Phil Hanses, Drain Commissioner

**Members**  
Dwight Washington, BOC Rep.  
Dave Pohl, BOC Rep.  
Jan Motz, Planning Comm. Rep.  
Kevin Holt, Road Comm. Rep.  
James Graham, Citizen Rep.  
Pat Jackson, Citizen Rep.  
Gary Boersen, Citizen Rep.



**Staff**  
Kyle Thornton  
Parks and Greenspace  
Coordinator

1327 E. Townsend Rd • St. Johns, MI 48879  
[www.clinton-county.org](http://www.clinton-county.org)

Phone: 989.224.5128 • Fax: 989.224-5102  
Email: [parks@clinton-county.org](mailto:parks@clinton-county.org)

# MINUTES

## PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, June 2, 2023, AT 8:30 A.M.  
Motz County Park – Larry Martin Pavilion  
4630 N. Dewitt Road  
St. Johns, MI 48879

### I. Call to Order - Declaration of Quorum

Chair Natalie Elkins declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:37 AM

Members Present:

- |                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1) Dave Pohl    | 4) Jan Motz     | 7) Chuck Nelson |
| 2) Pat Jackson  | 5) Phil Hanses  |                 |
| 3) James Graham | 6) Gary Boersen |                 |

Guests Present:

- Kurt Wolf, Clinton Conservation District
- Katie Hafner, Clinton Conservation District
- Charity Wood, MMDHD

Staff Present:

- Kyle Thornton
- Todd Campbell

A. Approval of June 2, 2023, Agenda as amended.

**Moved by Jan Motz, seconded by David Pohl, to approve the June 2, 2023, meeting Agenda.** Motion carried.

B. Approval of May 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes

**Moved by James Graham, seconded by Gary Boersen, to approve the May 5, 2023, meeting Minutes.** Motion carried.

## II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

- A. Charity Wood from the Mid Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) reported that the department has restarted the weekly surface water sampling/testing of Motz County Park, Clinton Lakes County Park, Sleepy Hollow State Park, and Park Lake for the season. Wood mentioned additionally that MMDHD will be completing some tick drag and mosquito surveying programs throughout Clinton County.
- B. Kurt Wolf from Clinton Conservation District mentioned the district's annual meeting will be hosted June 6, 2023, at AgroLiquid.
- C. Katie Hafner from the Clinton Conservation District mentioned the Forestry Workshop on May 11<sup>th</sup> was successful and about 30 Clinton County landowners were present. Hafner reported the Clinton Conservation District is planting the seed for the 2-acre demonstration site at Clinton Lakes County Park. Discussion followed about signage, Hafner mentioned that Cheyanne Bartholomew from the Conservation District is designing signage.

## III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton reported the summer staff has all started and both Motz and Clinton Lakes are fully opened and have been busy. Additionally, Thornton mentioned that with Corey Zverina came back over Memorial Day Weekend to help with park management over the busy holiday weekend. Thornton mentioned park operations have been running smooth. Lastly, Coordinator Thornton reported the 2024 budget request was submitted to Administration for review.

## IV. Committee Reports

- A. Water Based Recreation/Surface Water Quality – Phil Hanses & Gary Boersen
  - a. Gary Boersen mentioned he visited the Jones Road access site to the Grand River. With conversations with MGROW, Gary is getting connected with the property owner and hopes to make connections by the end of the following week. Discussion followed about the accessibility to the river, Boersen noticed the site is a little steep, yet access is a possibility with materials such as railroad tiles or a kayak/canoe slide.
- B. Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson & Dave Pohl
  - County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
  - FMCIS Trail
  - a. Coordinator Thornton mentioned he attended the public meeting hosted Tri-County on May 11<sup>th</sup> in Dewitt to discuss the options of a trail coming north out of Lansing. The study being conducted will provide the blueprints/game plan of options

to connect the Lansing trails north through Clinton County, west through Eaton County and south through Ingham County.

C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. No report.

D. Finance Committee – Natalie Elkins

- a. Coordinator Thornton mentioned that we have spent 28% of 2023 budget.

E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson, Jim Graham & Jan Motz

- a. Jan Motz mentioned that north side of the grassland looks great after the burn.
- b. Coordinator Thornton mentioned that cottonwoods in the south half of the grassland have popped up and he will be working with staff on cutting and treating cottonwoods as time allows.

F. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Pat Jackson provided an update on “A Day in the Park” offered by Clinton County RESA and Career Connections. Jackson mentioned that attendance was less than expected and Clinton County RESA will evaluate for 2024.
- b. Jan Motz led a discussion about where the surface water testing results are posted and available. Following the discussion, Coordinator Thornton mentioned the results are posted around the showcases of the park and he will work to post the surface water testing results on the Clinton County website.

**V. Old Business**

A. Clinton Lakes Master Plan & Five-Year Plan

- a. Nothing to report. (Plan is set to expire December of 2024).

B. Clinton Lakes Dog Beach

- a. Kyle Thornton reported the actual permit is still not yet in hand, Clinton County is still waiting to receive from EGLE.

C. Pratt Road Property/Tours

- a. Coordinator Thornton reported with Phase II soil borings was completed by Tetra Tech on June 1, 2023, in the area the diesel tanks had been sitting on the Pratt Road Property site. Thornton mentioned at the time of the meeting no additional information has been received for the EGLE – Dewatering Permit.

D. Hesse/Earl Youth Fishing Program

- a. Coordinator Thornton reported the Hesse/Earl Youth Fishing program hosted at Motz County Park on May 20, 2023, was a success. Actual number of participants was a

little lower than planned, but cold, wet, and rainy weather was an impact. Kurt Wolf provided a report on a successful day as was able experience the event as both a volunteer and parent of participants.

## **VI. New Business**

- A. PGSC July 7<sup>th</sup> from July 14<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Coordinator Thornton mentioned the July PGSC Meeting has officially been moved to July 7<sup>th</sup> from July 14<sup>th</sup> and will be hosted at the Larry Martin Pavilion at Motz County Park.

## **VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items**

- A. No additional public comments.

## **VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:**

Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 8:30 am  
Motz County Park - Larry Martin Pavilion  
4630 N. Dewitt Road  
St. Johns, MI 48879

**Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by James Graham to adjourn the meeting until Friday, July 7, 2023.** Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:22 AM.